AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for aggregating information from a plurality of enterprises offering items for exchange over a network, each enterprise maintaining a separate exchange, each enterprise having an enterprise database for storing information about items available through each separate exchange, and each enterprise enabling shoppers to interact directly with each separate exchange to obtain the information about the items, the method comprising:

automatically collecting and analyzing information about the items from the enterprise databases associated with each of the enterprises by use of a host computer, the host computer being in communication with the enterprises over the network, wherein information about a selected item is collected and analyzed from at least two enterprise databases and information about a second selected item that is within a same class as the selected item is collected and analyzed;

storing the information collected from the enterprise databases in a host database, the information being stored in the host database by the host computer;

providing a host graphical user interface through which the shoppers can view, over the network, the information stored in the host database and can specify a class of items.

2

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein collecting information from enterprise databases includes crawling HTML page trees.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein collecting information from enterprise databases includes crawling XML page trees.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein collecting information includes collecting publicly accessible information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein collecting information from enterprise databases includes collecting information from auction sites offering items for purchase over the network and the enterprise databases comprise auction databases associated with the auction sites.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein collecting information from auction databases includes crawling HTML page trees.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein collecting information from auction databases includes crawling XML page trees.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein collecting information includes collecting publicly accessible information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

periodically collecting the information about the items from the enterprise databases, and

updating the information stored in the host database.

10. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 9, wherein updating the information stored in the host database comprises updating the information stored in the host database with sufficient frequency to enable the shoppers to monitor and participate effectively in bidding activity at the auction sites.

11. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

dynamically scheduling the collecting of information from the auction databases based upon content of previously collected information.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

enabling the host computer to receive an auction watch request from the shoppers,

monitoring with the host computer a bidding activity at a specified auction site with regard to a specified item in response to the received auction watch request, and

displaying the bidding activity to the shopper by way of the host graphical user interface.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising dynamically scheduling the collecting of information from the auction databases based upon content of previously collected information.

4

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

enabling the host graphical user interface to accept from the shopper an update request, and

updating at least a portion of the information stored in the host database substantially in real-time in response to the update requests.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

periodically collecting the information about the items from the enterprise databases, and

updating the information stored in the host database.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

enabling the host graphical user interface to accept from the shopper an update request, and

updating at least a portion of the information stored in the host database substantially in real-time in response to the update requests.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

enabling the host graphical user interface to accept from the shopper an item watch request specifying a particular item for monitoring, and

monitoring the auction sites to detect if the specified item becomes available for bidding at the auction sites in response to the item watch request from the shopper.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising

providing the shopper with notification in response to detecting the specified item becoming available for bidding, wherein the host computer provides the notification by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from the host graphical user interface.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

enabling the host graphical user interface to accept from the shopper a market watch request specifying a class of items for monitoring, and

detecting availability of items within the class of items at the auction sites.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising distinguishing between newly detected ones of the items from previously detected ones of the items.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising

providing the shopper with notification regarding detection of the items within the class of items, wherein the host provides the notification by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from the host graphical user interface.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising providing the shoppers with notification of host-based events by

way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from the host graphical
user interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22,
wherein the host computer-initiated mechanism includes a communication
mechanism chosen from electronic mail, Internet messaging, pager, facsimile,
telephone, and Web telephone.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22,
wherein the host computer-initiated mechanism includes providing a hyperlink
to the host graphical user interface.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further
comprising:
~~enabling the host graphical user interface to accept from the shopper a
host database query specifying a class of items,~~
searching the host database for items within the class of items, and
displaying auction information with regard to the items within the class
of items to the shopper by way of the host graphical user interface.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 1,
wherein ~~enabling~~ the host graphical user interface ~~to~~ accepts from the
shopper ~~the host database query includes enabling accepting from the
shopper~~ an indication of specific keywords to restrict the class of items.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 1,
wherein ~~enabling~~ the host graphical user interface ~~to~~ accepts from the

shopper ~~the host database query includes enabling accepting from the~~
~~shopper~~ an indication of at least one category to restrict the class of items.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~1, wherein
~~enabling~~ the host graphical user interface ~~to~~ accept_s_ from the shopper ~~the~~
~~host database query includes enabling accepting from the shopper~~ an
indication of a combination of keywords and at least one category to restrict
the class of items.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~5, wherein
~~enabling~~ the host graphical user interface ~~to~~ accept_s_ from the shopper ~~the~~
~~host database query includes enabling accepting from the shopper~~ an
indication of particular ones of the auction sites to restrict the class of items.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~5, wherein
~~enabling~~ the host graphical user interface ~~to~~ accept_s_ from the shopper ~~the~~
~~host database query includes enabling accepting from the shopper~~ an
indication of a particular type of auction site in which the shopper is interested
to restrict the class of items.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30,
wherein the particular type of auction site includes person-to-person auctions
and business-to-person auctions.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~5, wherein
~~enabling~~ the host graphical user interface ~~to~~ accept_s_ from the shopper ~~the~~
~~host database query includes enabling the host computer and the host~~
~~graphical user interface to accept from the shopper~~ an indication of a time

frame in which the host computer detects that an item within the class is
available at one of the auction sites.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2̶5̶1, wherein
e̶n̶a̶b̶l̶i̶n̶g̶ the host graphical user interface t̶o̶ accepts from the shopper t̶h̶e̶
h̶o̶s̶t̶ ̶d̶a̶t̶a̶b̶a̶s̶e̶ ̶q̶u̶e̶r̶y̶ ̶i̶n̶c̶l̶u̶d̶e̶s̶ ̶e̶n̶a̶b̶l̶i̶n̶g̶ ̶a̶c̶c̶e̶p̶t̶i̶n̶g̶ ̶f̶r̶o̶m̶ ̶t̶h̶e̶ ̶s̶h̶o̶p̶p̶e̶r̶ an
indication of at least one of a specific price and a price range for the class of
items.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for aggregating auction
information from a plurality of auction sites, comprising:

interconnecting at least one host site and the plurality of auction sites
by a network;

providing a host database in communication with the host;

searching the plurality of auction sites across the network under the
control of a host computer;

retrieving auction information from the auction sites, wherein the
auction information includes information about a selected item from at least
two auction sites <u>and information about a second selected item that is in a
same class as the selected item</u>;

extracting data items from the auction information, the data items
comprising information associated with items offered for purchase by the
auction sites; and

storing the data items within the host database.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34,
wherein searching the plurality of auction sites across the network under the

control of the host computer comprises searching the plurality of auction sites continuously on a periodic basis.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 further comprising updating the host database with the data items retrieved and extracted from the auction information.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein storing the items within the host database comprises sorting and arranging the data items according to a hierarchy of product and service categories established by the host.

38. (Previously Presented) A method for searching for products or services offered for purchase by a plurality of auction sites, comprising:

interconnecting a host site and the plurality of auction sites by a network;

providing a host database in communication with a host computer ;

searching the plurality of auction sites across the network under the control of the host computer, by at least one of matching one or more keywords for the products or services and of matching one or more of the categories associated with the products or services;

retrieving auction information from the auction sites, wherein the auction information includes information about a selected item from at least two auction sites;

extracting data items from the auction information, the data items comprising information corresponding to the products or services offered for purchase by the auction sites; and

storing the data items within the host database.

10

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the information corresponding to the products or services comprises information chosen from one of a description of the product or service description, name of auction site, and type of auction.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein storing the data items stored within the host database comprises storing the data items within the database according to categories established by the host computer.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the categories established by the host computer are chosen from one of a product or service type and a type of auction.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the categories established by the host computer include a hierarchy of product and service type categories and subcategories.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein searching by one or more keywords can be conducted within one or more of the categories.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the search by categories can be conducted within a subset of data items identified by a search by one or more keywords.

45. (Cancelled).

46. (Cancelled).